

Message Text

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SUBJ: GIOLITTI REPORTS TO ITALY ON HIS TRIP TO US

REF: ROME 7461

1. ADVANCE SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW GIVEN SOCIALIST-EDITED
POLITICAL WEEKLY PANORAMA APPEARED TODAY ON ITALIAN WIRE
SERVICE ANSA AND IS WIDELY REPRODUCED IN THE PRESS.

2. IN LINE WITH STORIES WHICH APPEARED WHILE HE WAS IN
US, GIOLITTI IS VARIOUSLY QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE FOUND
AMERICANS CAUTIOUS ON THE ITALIAN QUESTION; THAT THERE WAS RE-
THINKING OF CURRENT US POLICY TOWARD ITALY; THAT THE AMERICANS
WERE WORRIED. NEVERTHELESS, THOUGH HE WAS ALSO TOLD PCI ENTRY
INTO GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A MISTAKE AND WOULD CAUSE THE US TO
DISCUSS THE NEW SITUATION WITH ITS NATO ALLIES, HE
EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WOULD BE "DISCUSSION", NOT
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REPEAT NOT AN AUTOMATIC DECISION TO EXPEL ITALY FROM

THE ALLIANCE.

3. GIOLITTI FOUND THE AMERICANS HAD COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE REASON FOR THE PCI ADVANCE WAS THE CAVUUM OF POWER LEFT BY THE RULING POLITICIANS WHO HAD SHOWN THEMSELVES UNCAPABLE TO GOVERN. THE AMERICANS HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE CATHOLIC MATRIX OF THE DC (WHICH THEY ARE AVERSE TO), BUT CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THE DC THE LESSER EVIL AS LONG AS IT HOLDS. AMERICANS HAD ALSO COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT AN ERA HAD ENDED AND A NEW POLITICAL BALANCE HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED.

4. FOR SOCIALISTS, GIOLITTI FOUND NEW UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY. SOCIALISTS ARE NO LONGER LUMPED WITH COMMUNISTS, THEIR DEMOCRATIC CREDENTIALS ARE NOT QUESTIONED, A SOCIALIST ADVANCE WOULD BE VIEWED WITH FAVOR AS POTENTIALLY SETTING OFF REAL RENEWAL IN ITALY; IT WAS EVEN AUGURED THAT THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE A SOCIALIST. FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SOCIALIST ACCEPTANCE BY THE US WAS GIOLITTI'S SATISFIED OBSERVATION THAT NO ONE IN AMERICA SPEAKS ANY LONGER ABOUT THE PSDI.

5. GIOLITTI CREDITS HIMSELF WITH CRACKING, IF NOT BREACHING, AMERICAN VIEWS ABOUT THE REALITIES OF THE ITALIAN SITUATION. HE SAID HE LAID OUT THE THREE POSSIBILITIES: A GOVERNMENT OF ALL "DEMOCRATIC PARTIES" INCLUDING THE PCI, A GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED IN PARLIAMENT BY THE PCI AS FOR EXAMPLE A DC-PSI GOVERNMENT, OR A GOVERNMENT WHICH LIMITS ITSELF TO NEGOTIATING THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS OF ITALY WITH A PCI IN THE OPPOSITION. HE (GIOLITTI) INDICATED THAT HE OPTED FOR SOMETHING SHORT OF PCI PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. HE THOUGHT THE AMERICANS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT NONE OF THEM, SAID GIOLITTI, NEITHER DID THEY REACT WITH "THREATS, DICATES, OR ULTIMATUMS."

6. GIOLITTI ALSO CREDITS HIMSELF WITH REBUTTING AMERICAN ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PCI. RE NATO, THE AMERICANS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT KEEPING ITALY IN IT IS IN THE PCI INTEREST; NATO IS THE ONLY GUARANTEE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(THE SURVIVAL) OF ITS DIFFERENT KIND OF COMMUNISM; THE PCI HAS NOT FORGOTTEN PRAGUE. THE AMERICANS SHOULD NOT MISTAKE A FIREFLY FOR A LIGHT (I.E., BLUNDER); MAKING THE PCI CO-RESPONSIBLE FOR ITALIAN PROBLEMS IS NOT BRINGING IT TO POWER; THE PCI HAS ALREADY BEEN IN GOVERNMENT, BUT LEFT IT WITHOUT A FISS. FINALLY, HE FOUND THE AMERICANS CONCERNED ABOUT A DOMINO REACTION IN EUROPE IF COMMUNISTS COME TO POWER IN ITALY. THE

REAL SITUATION, SAID GIOLITTI, IS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE.
EUROCOMMUNISM IS A CHALLENGE TO THE USSR, NOT THE US.
IF THE US WOULD GIVE SOCIALISTS A HAND TO CREATE A
UNITED EUROPE, THE SPREADING SPECTER OF EUROCOMMUNISM
WOULD FADE AWAY. THERE IS A REASON WHY THE PCI SENDS
EMISSARIES TO SWEDEN, ENGLAND AND GERMANY: THEY ARE SEEKING
THE CREATION OF A GREAT SOCIALIST EUROPE, IMMUNE TO ANY
AUTHORITARIAN REVIVAL, WHICH, ACCORDING TO GIOLITTI, IS
PERHAPS NOT A DREAM FOR THE LONG-TERM.VOLPE

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